

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

November 12, 2013

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge

Dear Families,

The snow this morning was a chilling reminder that winter is coming. With parent conferences behind us, it's a good time to focus our energy indoors. I know there are a lot of happy Book Fair shoppers who are excited about that already! Parent conferences provided many of you a good opportunity to hear about your child's performance in school. If you are curious about how to support your growing young reader or writer, please don't hesitate to check in with your child's teacher. We have a tremendous amount of resources to motivate and support our students, both in hand and online. In fact, one of the most impressive things our staff members do every day is think about how to support and challenge your children.

The process starts with collecting assessment information. Using a combination of tools (like the Developmental Reading Assessment) grade level tests, and informal interviews, teachers in Shrewsbury commit to knowing students' strengths and needs well. We do this because the data we collect guides teaching decisions. At Coolidge, these needs also guide intervention and enrichment plans. Every teacher completes an intervention plan for students below benchmark. Further, every grade level team works together with specialists to prioritize and target individual needs. This is so important that we have a common time devoted every day to support struggling students and to challenge those who need a stretch. If you're unsure about what this looks like for your child, please ask!

This year we are tackling two particular challenges across all five grades: reading comprehension and number sense. We are still in the process of collecting the data, and there will be more information to share on school-wide trends and needs soon. In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering your help as a guest reader or typist, it's not too late to contact Melissa Pratt, our volunteer coordinator.

Sincerely,



Amy Clouter
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 13	Wingmasters visits 2nd grade Grade 3 visits Plimoth Plantation
November 15	School Store PTO Shopping Spectacular 6 pm
November 19	Author Melissa Stewart visits Grades 3 & 4 PTO Meeting, 7 pm

November 21	Grade 4 concert, 6:30 pm, Coolidge Cafeteria
November 27, 28, 29	No school; Thanksgiving break
December 2 – 6	Gingerbread Shop
December 9	Report Cards go home
December 20	Snowflake Festival
12/23 – January 1 2014	NO School – December break
January 2, 2014	Return to school

FYI

1. Thanks to the veterans in our community. Your dedicated service- and the sacrifices made by your families- afford us our precious freedoms. I feel fortunate that I can still thank my neighbor, a World War II veteran who served aboard ship. At Hudson's celebration of Veteran's Day, our featured speaker talked about the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, who served in what later became the Air Force. He described this group as "eighty men from all walks of life who flew into history on April 18, 1942." The raiders started as an all-volunteer group led by (then Colonel) Jimmy Doolittle. They faced a very dangerous mission: modifying and flying sixteen B-25 bombers off the deck of the USS Hornet- something at the time that was very unusual. Their mission was to fly over Japan, drop their bombs and fly on to land in a part of China that was still free. Of course, things did not go as planned. These men faced incredible challenges, and demonstrated impressive inventiveness and resolve in tough circumstances. Read more about their history here: <http://www.npr.org/2013/11/11/244452597/doolittle-raiders-dwindle-in-numbers>

2. If you know a Rotary Club member, please thank them for their support of our second grade readers. In addition to reading aloud to a captive audience in each classroom, they brought us fifteen beautiful books to keep! Coolidge visitors included State Representative Matt Beaton, Reverend Erin Kirby and Reverend Cliff Gerber.

3. Parents (and even extended family!) are welcome to visit with our students during lunch. Please do not bring younger siblings out to recess, though- if your child is not yet in Kindergarten, s/he should not be on our playground with the older children.